

Fauske Building” by the Alaska Legislature in honor of his many accomplishments.

Dan was so successful at AHFC, the Alaska Legislature asked him to take on a second duty, that of exploring the feasibility of constructing a small diameter pipeline to bring natural gas from the North Slope to serve Alaskans. In 2013, he left his job at AHFC to pursue this “second job” full time as executive director of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, AGDC. He served in that role until November 2015.

At AGDC, Dan brought the same focus to the position he had to every other one he had held in his distinguished career: serving Alaskans. For Dan, AGDC’s mission wasn’t so much about commercializing Alaska’s gas as it was delivering energy to Alaskans. His focus on delivering energy relief and security drove the State’s efforts and resulted in AGDC joining the integrated effort to build Alaska LNG as the entity focused on delivering gas to Alaskans.

Whether it was building water systems on the North Slope, developing housing across the State, or delivering energy, Dan did it for Alaskans first. That was what we loved about him, he saw policy not at the 50,000-foot level but in the face, life, and experience of every person he worked with and served.

Dependable, trusted, respected—the consummate “go to” guy—all of these phrases are used to describe Dan Fauske. He believed in Alaska. He believed in Alaskans. Like all great Alaskans, he believed anything could be done, but what earned him our unwavering respect is that he followed through and got it done.

Dan Fauske will long be remembered as a true leader who walked with the people and a key figure in Alaska history of the post-Statehood era.●

RECOGNIZING HILLCREST AIRCRAFT COMPANY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize an outstanding small business located in my home State of Idaho. As many of my colleagues in the Western Caucus can tell you, catastrophic wildfires are a cause for major concern and costs for large swathes of the West, particularly in the summer months. This month’s small business has found their specialty in helping to control these large wildfires in a safe and efficient manner. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Hillcrest Aircraft Company as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Month for August 2017.

Hillcrest Aircraft Company is based out of Lewiston, ID, and is a utility helicopter company with a broad spectrum of work. Hillcrest Aircraft Company was founded by local pilots in 1946. Jerry Wilson partnered with the

company in 1959, eventually becoming the sole owner in 1972. Jerry’s son, Gale Wilson, is the current president of the company, and his son, Keith White, serves as vice president. The Wilson’s legacy of promoting a strong work ethic coupled with strict safety requirements has built the company into a premier helicopter business. In 1968, Hillcrest became the first certified Bell customer service facility in Idaho, and 1 year later, in 1969, they became an approved FAA repair station. Their main focus, however, is aerial firefighting. Whether they are transporting firefighters to remote areas or dropping hundreds of gallons of water on a raging fire, Hillcrest prides itself on protecting communities from dangerous wildfires. In fact, they have fought fires in all of the lower 48 States during their 60-plus years of experience. On top of aerial firefighting, Hillcrest flies for power and timber companies, photographers, videographers, and even fish planters. Their comprehensive background in a variety of industries, dedication to operational safety, and commitment to strict ethical standards continue to keep this family-owned business busy around the clock.

Hillcrest has always put safety first, and in 2015 and 2016, they were rewarded for their efforts. Hillcrest achieved the necessary requirements for the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations, IS-BAO, Stage I registration by implementing a safety management system, SMS, in 2015 and Stage II registration in 2016. This safety standard acknowledges the company’s efforts to improve their safety risk profile and operating efficiency. Hillcrest was one of the first rotary-wing-only operators to achieve the IS-BAO Stage II.

The future is bright for Hillcrest Aircraft Company as they continue to expand their business. Just a couple of months ago in June, Hillcrest opened their very own fixed base operation, FBO, at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport. I would like to congratulate Gale Wilson and his family, along with all of the employees at Hillcrest, for the hard work they do in trying conditions while still keeping their commitment to safety. I wish the best for Hillcrest Aircraft Company, and I am confident that they will continue to keep Idahoans and Americans safe.●

REMEMBERING HERBERT NEEDLEMAN

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I recently received the sad news that Dr. Herbert L. Needleman has passed away. With Herbert’s passing, we lost a great man—and the scientific community lost one of its best.

In the 1970s, Herb undertook groundbreaking studies that revealed the dangers of lead exposure in children. According to the Pittsburgh Gazette, Herb “had been thinking about the impact lead had on children’s cognitive abilities for nearly two decades

before he finally came up with a way to test historic lead levels.” He made powerful adversaries in the lead industry, but true to his research, Dr. Needleman found new and inventive ways to prove the toxic effects of lead exposure.

As a researcher at Temple University, he developed the “Tooth Fairy” approach: a method to test children’s baby teeth for lead exposure levels. This method led to pioneering research that found that Black children living in cities had lead levels five times higher than suburban, White children. In the words of Herb’s son, “He just couldn’t tolerate injustice and could not stop seeking the truth.” The results of Herb’s hard work and his dedication to seeking the truth today reach from the halls of science to the apartments of inner cities.

I got to see his determination first hand, working alongside him in fighting the lead paint industry in Rhode Island. When I was confronting the lead industry, over 35,000 Rhode Island children under the age of 6 had elevated levels of lead in their systems. His research was instrumental in the fight for the health of Rhode Island’s children. I am deeply grateful for Herbert’s help in my home State, and I know Rhode Island families are grateful as well.

America has lost a beloved pediatrician, psychiatrist, and brilliant scientist. I offer my condolences to the Needleman family and to the many people he taught and mentored through the years. He lives on as a lasting lesson in the power of science to help others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702 and the order